

## NOTES ON THE FORMER OCCURRENCE OF CERTAIN MAMMALS IN NORTHERN OHIO.

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Mr. Porter W. Wright has killed more big game than any other man of my acquaintance in this region. He owns a good deal of land in Sandusky County near the west end of Sandusky Bay, and has lived there since 1836, when he was two years old. Along with notes made at his house last year I will give some others obtained previously from old residents, some of whom are no longer living.

Mr. Wright often saw fifteen or twenty deer at a time and they used to eat much of the corn in the fields. Men cut brush to keep them out of the corn fields. They would eat within twenty rods of a man and some were shot from the houses. They were plentiful enough to furnish all the meat desired, and there was no market for them. The last was seen about 1859.

In Erie County deer were often seen on the Oxford Prairie feeding, and were plentiful as late as 1830.

In Paulding County, W. H. Todd killed a deer in 1881. In Wood County, on Scotch Ridge, Isaac Ward shot a deer in the Fall of 1893.

Mr. Wright does not know of any bison in his time, but he saw many of their horns, and bones near Castalia.

Elk antlers have been reported found in Erie County.

Bears were seen in various places in Sandusky County but were scarce after 1845. Mr. Wright thinks there were none of these animals after he began to hunt deer in 1849. On Put-in-Bay when Dausa's Cave was being enlarged in order to make it accessible to the public, part of the lower jaw bone of a bear was found. W. H. Todd told me a bear was killed in Paulding County in 1881.

Mr. Wright remembers having seen panthers when he was a boy. Mr. Gurley says that years ago there were many wild cats in Erie County. A wild cat was killed in Wood County about 1878.

Mr. Wright killed three otters about 1874. His wife thinks the last one was caught there about 1879. Near Sugar Rock, Catawba Island, one was seen swimming July 8, 1897, by Mr. Coville; and I was told that about the same date otters were caught occasionally near Toussaint, Ottawa County.

Wolves killed several sheep near Clyde in 1835 or 1836. Mr. Wright thinks the last one south of the Sandusky River was seen about 1854, but that there were some in Ottawa County later. In the museum at the Indiana State House is a mounted specimen of a wolf killed in Jasper County, Indiana, in 1904.

He saw many porcupines, the last about 1870. Mr. Julius House killed a porcupine in Wood County about 1879.

In Daussa's Cave, Put-in-Bay, half of a lower jaw-bone of a beaver was found. Mr. Wright knows of no living specimens in his time.

Concerning mammals still common, a few notes may be of interest. In the fall of 1899, Burt Todd killed 13 raccoons, 27 skunks and 18 opossums, nearly all within three miles of his home in the eastern part of Erie County. In 1900 he killed 15 raccoons, 28 skunks and 20 opossums.

About 1892 Charles Dildyne and his brother trapped 74 mink in one winter in the West Huron Marsh in Erie County.

Sandusky.

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